

computer readable program code means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the receiving instruction.--.

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to all the points of rejections raised by the Examiner in the Office Action dated October 2, 2002. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 25, 36, 37, 47, 54, 55, 58 and 59 will have been amended, and claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-30 and 32-59 will be all the claims pending in the application. No new issues have been introduced by the Amendment. Entry and consideration of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

In the Office Action, claims 43-46, 56 and 57 are deemed allowable. Claim 37 is objected to because of minor informalities. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 37-42, 54 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bloomfield (U.S. Patent No. 6,025,931). Claims 47-53, 58 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,767,985, hereafter Yamamoto). Claims 4, and 9-12 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Bloomfield in view of Toyoda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,278, hereafter Toyoda). Finally, claims 13-19, 21-30 and 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Toyoda in view of Bloomfield. For the following reasons, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO CLAIM 37:

Applicant herein has amended claim 37 by removing “is started” as suggested by the Examiner. The objection is thus overcome and should be withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) & § 103(a):

Claims 1, 13, 25, 36, 37, 54 and 55:

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 1, 13, 25, 36, 37, 54 and 55 include, in pertinent part, the limitation “... when the transfer destination information or a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time ...,” which means that the cited prior art would only need to disclose one of the above conditions to anticipate the claims. The Examiner relies on Bloomfield for disclosing one of the above conditions.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 13, 25, 36, 37, 54 and 55 to remove the alternative language “or” noted by the Examiner. As amended, the claims recite two selecting means. A selecting means that is executed “when a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time,” and a “selecting means that is executed when destination information is not received within a prescribed time.” This feature is not disclosed by Bloomfield and is supported by steps 2-4 to 2-7 and 2-24 of Fig. 2 as well as the description on page 16, line 22 to page 17, line 16 of the original specification. Bloomfield can only teach to hang up when time-out happens, but not to select one of two choices as shown in Fig. 11B of the Bloomfield patent. Accordingly, claims 1, 13, 25, 36, 37, 54 and 55 are now believed to be

distinguishable over Bloomfield. Likewise, dependent claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-24, 26-35, and 38-46 are also believed to be distinguishable over Bloomfield based on their dependency from claims 1, 13, 25, 36, 37, 54 and 55.

Claims 47, 58 and 59:

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Yamamoto anticipates the above claims. However, Applicant maintains that Yamamoto does not anticipate the claims for the following reasons:

First, Applicant wishes to point out that claim 58 is a method claim corresponding to claim 47, and claim 59 is a medium claim corresponding to claim 47. To assist the Examiner, examples of the correspondences between the claim language and the specification are provided below. "A communication apparatus" of claim 47 corresponds to a communication apparatus 1-8 as an internet/FAX apparatus in Fig. 1. "Various types networks" include PSTN or ISDN 1-10 and LAN 1-5 plus INTERNET/INTRANET 1-13. "A transmitting source" corresponds to FAX 1-11. Therefore, "a network" and "said network" are PSDN or ISDN 1-10. "Destination address data" corresponds to telephone number of the communication apparatus 1-8 when FAX mode, while to e-mail number of e-mail client via LAN 1-5 or INTERNET/INTRANET 1-13.

"A request from the transmitting source via said network" corresponds to a incoming call from FAX 1-11 which is detected in step 2-2 of Fig. 2. "A message in response to a request" corresponds to voice guidance 1 described in page 16, lines 9-21. "An instruction generated based on said message" corresponds to DTMF signal from FAX 1-11. "Another

instruction different from said instruction based on said message” corresponds to CNG signal from FAX 1-11.

When the CNG signal is received, FAX data from FAX 1-11 is received and printed out without changing format of the FAX data, as shown in step 2-20 of Fig. 2. On the other hand, when DTMF signal is received, FAX data from FAX 1-11 is changed into e-mail data and e-mail number is changed into e-mail address, as shown in steps 2-15 and 2-16 of Fig. 2.

In the Office Action, on pages 3-4, paragraph 4, the Examiner asserts that the elements of claim 47 corresponds to the following elements of Yamamoto:

“An instruction” of claim 47 corresponds to literal data in step 124 of Yamamoto and “another instruction” corresponds to vocal data in step 116 of Yamamoto. Also, “a message” of claim 47 corresponds to messages instructing image mode in step 128, instructing vocal mode in step 114 or instructing DTMF/literal mode in step 122 of Yamamoto.

However, if the above correspondences are correct, the following conflicts would occur:

If the facsimile unit 30 corresponds to the communication apparatus of claim 47 and the originating terminal connected to the facsimile unit 30 via the public telephone line 70 corresponds to the transmitting source of claim 47, a message must be returned from the facsimile unit 30 to the originating terminal in response to a request from the originating terminal via the public telephone line 70. However, Yamamoto sends to the host unit 10 the messages indicating image mode, vocal mode or DTMF/literal mode in step 128, 114 or 122, as described in col. 8, line 66 to col. 9, lines 20-23 and in col. 9, lines 15-17 of Yamamoto.

Therefore, under these correspondences, it is impossible to generate an instruction based on

said message or to receive another instruction based on said message, because the originating terminal transmitting an instruction or another instruction is opposite side from the host unit 10.

On the other hand, if the facsimile unit 30 corresponds to the communication apparatus of claim 47 and the host unit 10 corresponds to the transmitting source of claim 47, a message must be returned from the facsimile unit 30 to the host unit 10 in response to a request from the host unit 10. However, in Yamamoto, the messages instructing image mode in step 128, instructing vocal mode in step 114 or instructing DTMF/literal mode in step 122 of Yamamoto are transmitted from the originating terminal to the facsimile unit 30 via the public telephone line 70. Further, an instruction or another instruction must be transmitted from the host unit 10 to the facsimile unit 30, but in Yamamoto, these instructions are transmitted from the originating terminal to the facsimile unit 30 via the public telephone line 70. Therefore, if these correspondences are correct, “returning a message,” “receiving an instruction” or “receiving another instruction” of claim 47 cannot correspond to the structure of Yamamoto.

As mentioned above in detail, the Examiner’s correspondences between elements of claim 47 and those of Yamamoto cannot teach the structural features of claim 47. Even if the other correspondences between elements of claim 47 and those of Yamamoto are considered, Yamamoto gives no hint or suggestion to the structural feature of claim 47. Therefore, claim 47 is believed to be distinguishable over Yamamoto at least for this reason. Dependent claims 48-53 are also believed to be distinguishable over Yamamoto based on their dependency from claim 47. Claim 58 is a method claim corresponding to claim 47, and claim 59 is a medium

claim corresponding to claim 47. Thus, claims 58 and 59 is also distinguishable over Yamamoto.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above Amendment and arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record, and are now in condition for allowance.

AUTHORIZATION

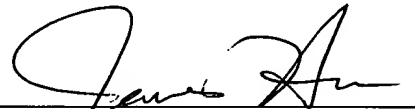
No fee is due by filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4458.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: K. SEKIGUCHI :

Serial No.: 09/123,145 : Group Art Unit: 2622

Filed: July 27, 1998 : Examiner: J. Pokrzywa

For: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND COMMUNICATION APPARATUS
BUILDING THE SYSTEM

ATTACHMENT SHOWING MARKUP OF CHANGES

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Amendments made to claims 1, 13, 25, 36, 37, 47, 54, 55, 58 and 59 herein are indicated in this attachment by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note the following amendments to claims 1, 13, 14, 25, 36, 37, 43, 54 and 55:

--1. (Four Times Amended) A communications apparatus comprising:

means for connecting to a computer network;

means for connecting to a public telephone network;

facsimile reception means for receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network;

means for receiving transfer destination information of e-mail data from the public telephone network;

conversion means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;

transmission means for designating an e-mail destination of the computer network on the basis of the received transfer destination information, and transmitting the e-mail data converted by said conversion means to a destination designated by the transfer destination information; [and]

means for selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started[,] when the transfer destination information [or a signal related to a facsimile communication] is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network; and

means for selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started when a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network.

13. (Four Times Amended) A method for a communication apparatus, connected to a computer network and a public telephone network, the communication apparatus having a facsimile communication function, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a remote instruction including transfer destination information from the public telephone network by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol;

receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network;

converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;
designating an e-mail destination of the computer network based on the
received transfer destination information, and transmitting the converted e-mail data to a
destination designated by transfer destination information; and

selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the
public telephone network is started[,]when the transfer destination information [or a signal
related to a facsimile communication] is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring
signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public
telephone network[.]; and

selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the
public telephone network is started when a signal related to a facsimile communication is not
received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone
network after call reception from the public telephone network.

25. (Four Times Amended) A storage medium which stores a computer program
executed by a computer of a communication apparatus, connected to a computer and a public
telephone network, the communication apparatus having a facsimile communication function,
said computer program having:

processing of receiving a remote instruction including transfer destination information
from the public telephone network;

processing of receiving facsimile image data via the public telephone network;

processing of converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format;

processing of designating an e-mail destination of the computer network based on the received transfer destination information, and transmitting the converted e-mail data to a destination designated by transfer destination information; [and]

processing of selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started[,]when the transfer destination information [or a signal related to a facsimile communication] is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network[.]; and

processing of selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started when a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network.

36. (Four Times Amended) A communication system including a communication apparatus which is connected to a computer network and a public telephone network, the communication apparatus having a facsimile communication function, the computer network having an e-mail server,

wherein said communication apparatus receives facsimile image data from the public telephone network upon reception of a remote instruction including transfer destination information from the public network on the basis of a facsimile communication, converts the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format, transmits the e-mail data by designating an e-mail destination based on the received transfer destination, [and] selects

whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started[,] when [the transfer destination information or] a signal related to a facsimile communication is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network, selects whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started when transfer destination information is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network, and

said e-mail server receives the transmitted e-mail data in a post office corresponding to the e-mail destination.

37. (Four Times Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

means for receiving information data with destination address data via one of said networks from a transmission source;

means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating said destination address data; and

means for selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network [is started,] when [said information data or] said destination data is not received within a

prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network[.]; and

means for selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network is started when said information data is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network.

47. (Twice Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via [said networks] a network;

means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via said network [networks];

means for receiving an instruction generated based on said message;

means for receiving another instruction different from said instruction based on said message;

means for processing said information data without changing the format in a case where the another instruction is received; and

means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the received instruction.

54. (Thrice Amended) A method for a communication apparatus comprising the steps of:

connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

receiving information data with destination address data via one of said networks from a transmission source;

changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating said destination address data; [and]

selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network is started[,] when [said information data or] said destination data is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network[.];

selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network is started, when said information data is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network.

55. (Twice Amended) A computer program for a communication apparatus comprising:

computer readable program code means for connecting various types of networks that have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

computer readable program code means for receiving information data with destination address data via one of said networks from a transmission;

computer readable program code means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating said destination address data; [and]

computer readable program code means for selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network is started[,] when said information data [or said destination data] is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network[.]; and

computer readable program code means for selecting whether the communication is continued or not via said network is started when said destination data is not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from said network after a session is started via said network.

58. (Twice Amended) A method for a communication apparatus comprising:
- connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively;
 - receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via [said networks] a network;
 - returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via said [networks] network;
 - receiving an instruction generated based on said message;
 - receiving another instruction different from said instruction based on said message;

processing said information data without changing the format in a case where the another instruction is received; and

changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the receiving instruction.

59. (Amended) A computer program for a communication apparatus comprising:

computer readable program code means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively;

computer readable program code means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via [said networks] a network;

computer readable program code means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via said [networks] network;

computer readable program code means for receiving an instruction generated based on said message;

computer readable program code means for receiving another instruction different from said instruction based on said message;

computer readable program code means for processing said information data without changing the format in a case where the another instruction is received; and

computer readable program code means for changing a format of said information data and said destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the receiving instruction.--